

10 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 10 August 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray,  
Mr. Harr, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Riddleberger,  
Mr. Smith

1. Laos

The DCI, backed up by Mr. Merchant, gave a full briefing on Laos on the basis of the seriously disturbing cables received that morning. Difficult problems are being caused by inadequate communications and transport. However, efforts will be continued to establish communications with Luang Prabang and contact with Vathana.

2. Area Toxic Systems

Karl Harr raised the matter of some activities of the chemical warfare service regarding chemical elements for use on the battlefield. Defense will look into this item. The general finding of the group, however, was that the less said publicly about this subject, the better.

3. RB-47 Incident

Karl Harr then asked what further exploitation was planned on the RB-47 incident. It was Mr. Merchant's opinion that what had been done had come out very well; that it might be counterproductive to do more pending the Powers trial. However, he thought it might be appropriate to send another note to the Soviets with respect to access to the two pilots held.

4. Powers Trial

In regard to the Powers trial, the DCI said that at the JCS briefing (10 August) one of the members suggested, as a possibility,

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the trial court might give Powers the death sentence, but then commute it on the basis of good behavior -- on the part of the United States (no more overflights, etc.).

5. U-2 Incident

George Allen mentioned the Presidential directive on no publicity with respect to the U-2 incident except under State Department direction. He assumed that this directive, as interpreted, does not restrict current factual reporting of the trial on the part of VOA. The members agreed to this interpretation.

6. Overseas Weekly GI Publication

Defense agreed to look into the matter of the overseas weekly publication (published privately by an American woman in Munich). This weekly, which is handled as a routine service matter through Px's, etc., in the Munich area, recently did a series of articles unfavorable to Turkey, resulting in repercussions in that country.

 18 AUG 1960  
ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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